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Eastern District of California

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FORMER SANGER LITTLE LEAGUE COACH SENTENCED FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced that United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii sentenced BRADLY LEO NELSON, 48, of Sanger, Calif., to 12 years and seven months in prison followed by a lifetime term of supervised release for receipt of child pornography.

This case is a product of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department's Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, the Sanger Police Department had been investigating NELSON for several allegations of child molestation, including an incident with a potential victim from a baseball team that NELSON had coached. NELSON had been a coach in the Sanger Little League program for approximately 25 years. Investigators with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit, and the Fresno Immigration and Customs Enforcement office interviewed NELSON and examined his computer. Their investigation revealed that NELSON had obtained numerous images of the sexual exploitation of minors from the Internet, and they were located on a computer taken from NELSON's residence.

Federal charges were initially filed, but they were dismissed at the request of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office so that it could prosecute NELSON for offenses related to child molestation. That prosecution resulted in a state prison term of 22 years, and federal charges were refiled. NELSON pleaded guilty to federal charges on December 15, 2008. Judge Ishii ordered that 54 months of the federal sentence run concurrent with the state sentence, to account for an enhancement related to a "pattern of abuse or exploitation" of one or more minors. NELSON will serve his state sentence and then his federal sentence.

Nelson has been in continuous federal or state custody since his initial arrest on September 21, 2006.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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